

10/620,468

REMARKS

Claims 55-68 and 79 are pending in the application with claims 55, 62, 64, and 79 amended herein. No new matter is added.

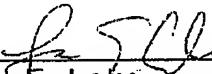
The pending claims are subject to a restriction requirement as allegedly being drawn toward conductive connection forming methods, oxidation protection methods, and integrated circuit via forming methods. However, Applicant herein amends all claims to be directed to integrated circuit forming methods. Also, each claim is amended to set forth or already sets forth forming a metal-containing material for an integrated circuit over a substrate. As may be appreciated from the amendments herein, the basis for restriction of claims no longer applies to currently pending claims 55-68 and 79. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement in the next Office Action.

Claims 62, 63, and 79 are also subject to a species election. The alleged distinction between the claims is that claims 62 and 63 set forth exposing the intermetal material after the annealing while claim 79 sets forth exposing the intermetal material after the removing. Claim 79 is amended herein to set forth that the removing occurs after the annealing. Accordingly, all of claims 62, 63, and 79 now set forth exposing the intermetal material after the annealing. The basis for the species election requirement no longer applies to pending claims 62, 63, and 79. Applicant requests withdrawal of the species election requirement in the next Office Action.

10/620.168

Applicant herein establishes adequate reasons to justify consideration of claims 55-68 and 79 and requests consideration of all pending claims in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 28 Mar 2006By: 
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Reg. No. 44,854